

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No. 657004

Dennis et. al.

Serial No.:

New Application

Filing Date: June 20, 2001

Examiner:

Unknown

Art Unit: Unknown

For:

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of this continuation application, which claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/434,608, filed November 15, 1999, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph found at page 1 lines 2-3 of the specification as follows:

This application claims the benefit of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/434,608, filed November 5, 1999, which stands allowed and which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/126,356 filed on March 26, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31.

Please enter the following added Claim 32.

- 1 32. (Added) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for the insertion
- 2 of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:
- 3 an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending
- 4 completely through the seal assembly;

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1 a cylindrical wall protector extending inwardly into an interior portion of the upper body
2 portion at the throughbore;

3 a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein the lower body
4 portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on the cannula;
5 and

6 a unitary valve seal comprising:

7 an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in the upper
8 body portion adjacent an interior portion of the upper body portion, said interior portion opposing
9 the upper surface, the upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, the cylindrical
10 wall protector extending between the throughbore and the upper seal portion; and

11 a lower seal portion extending from the upper seal portion, the lower seal portion
12 being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

REMARKS

The original patent application, as filed, included Claims 1-31. Please cancel claims 1-31 and enter added claim 32 as set forth above prior to examination of the patent application. Attached hereto is a separate sheet entitled "Clean Copy of Added Claim" showing a clean copy of the added claim. The added claim is believed to be fully supported by the specification and does not add new matter. Also attached hereto is a separate sheet entitled "Clean Copy of Amended Paragraph" showing a clean copy of the amended paragraph. Please substitute the amended paragraph for the paragraph found at page lines 2-3 in the specification as filed. In addition, no additional fees are believed to be due.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony D. Alexander, Reg. No. 44,501
Attorney for Applicants

Date: June 18, 2001

McGuireWoods, LLP
One James Center
901 East Cary Street.
Richmond, VA 23219-4030
Voice: (804) 775-1000
Facsimile: (804) 775-1061

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“Clean Copy of Added Claims”

32. A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for the insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

1 a cylindrical wall protector extending inwardly into an interior portion of
2 the upper body portion at the throughbore;

3 a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein the
4 lower body portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on
5 the cannula; and

6 a unitary valve seal comprising:

7 an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted
8 in the upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of the upper body portion, said interior
9 portion opposing the upper surface, the upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore,
10 the cylindrical wall protector extending between the throughbore and the upper seal portion; and

11 a lower seal portion extending from the upper seal portion, the
12 lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

“Clean Copy of Amended Paragraph”

This application claims the benefit of co-pending Application Serial No.09/434,608, filed November 5, 1999, which stands allowed and which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/126,356 filed on March 26, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.